



BROOKLYN'S IN THE HOUSE

NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE D. CLARKE

11th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Representing: Brownsville, Ocean Hill, Crown Heights, Greater Flatbush, East Flatbush, Kensington, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Prospect Heights, Prospect Gardens, Grand Army Plaza, Windsor Terrace, Flatbush and Midwood

June 18, 2010

Rep. Clarke Applauds Passage of the Small Business Lending Fund Act

This week the House of Representatives passed two key small business measures, H.R. 5297, the Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010 and H.R. 5486, the Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act. These two bills would expand much needed lending to Brooklyn's small businesses and offer tax incentives to help small businesses hire, grow and fuel Brooklyn's local economy. I am proud to have joined my Congressional colleagues in addressing the challenges that our small business owners continue to face.

The bills will:

- Leverage up to \$300 billion in loans for small businesses through a \$30 billion lending fund for small and medium-sized community banks, which focus on lending to small firms, and \$2 billion for innovative state lending programs supporting small business;
- Restart private investment to meet small businesses' evolving financing needs through a new SBA public-private partnership; and
- Provide \$3.5 billion in bipartisan tax incentives to spur investment in small businesses and the formation of new small businesses, and grant small business tax penalty relief.

I will continue to fight to ensure that small businesses in the 11th Congressional District of New York have the resources they need to succeed. I urge the Senate to act quickly to pass legislation to help small business access capital. The federal government must continue to play a unique role in assisting small businesses, as they are the backbone of our nation's economy.

Rep. Clarke Meets with OAS Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdin

On Tuesday, June 15, I met with the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Ambassador Albert Ramdin to exchange views on the various situations taking place in the Caribbean as well as discuss initiatives in the region, especially in Haiti.

Ambassador Ramdin and I discussed the OAS's support for assisting Haiti with their forthcoming elections; helping strengthening its civil registry and national identification systems, and supporting Haiti's efforts to modernize its cadastral system.

Ambassador Ramdin affirmed that "credible elections in Haiti are essential to the ongoing reconstruction process and democratic stability." The OAS is significantly intensifying its support for the National Office of Identification to update voters' lists and the distribution of ID cards for the upcoming elections. I join the Ambassador in his commitment to support the people and government of Haiti as they endeavor to rebuild their homeland.



Dear Neighbor,

It is not too late to participate in the 2010 Census. If the Census Bureau did not receive your completed census form, as a courtesy, a census taker may briefly visit your home to assist with the completion of the form. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your information with anyone, including other federal agencies, immigration authorities or law enforcement agencies.

The census taker will never ask to enter your home. If a census taker visits you, here's what you should do:

- Ask to see his/her ID. All census workers carry official government badges marked with just their name; they may also have a "U.S. Census Bureau" bag.
- If you're still not certain about their identity, please call the Census Bureau at (347) 328-2540 or (866) 861-2010 to confirm they are employed by the Census Bureau.
- Answer the census form questions for your entire household (you must be at least 15 years old to answer questions) so that the census taker can record the results for submission to the Census Bureau.

Let's do our part so that our voices are heard.

Sincerely,
Yvette D. Clarke

Rep. Clarke Holds Hearing on the WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2010



Rep. Clarke Chairs a Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing On H.R. 5498 with Ranking Member Rep. Dan Lungren.

On Tuesday, June 15, as Chairwoman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology, I held a hearing discussing H.R. 5498, the WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2010. This bill is primarily based on a report by the Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism – ‘The WMD Commission’ - entitled ‘World at Risk’ in 2008. In that report, the Commission warned that a terrorist act would occur somewhere in the world by 2013, and that it is likely to be an act of biological terrorism. While American Security forces have prevented any WMD attacks on American soil since 2001, we must remain vigilant.

It is clear that we need to improve efforts to counter a weapon of mass destruction attack - especially using a biological weapon. This is the purpose of H.R. 5498, the WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2010.

H.R. 5498 calls for a number of new programs and activities, such as:

- A National Intelligence Strategy for Countering the Threat of WMD;
- The creation of a top tier of Select Agents that pose a material threat to the Nation – the Tier 1 Material Threat Agents;
- Enhanced measures to better secure these Tier 1 Material Threat Agents;
- Grants to help laboratories that possess Tier 1 Material Threat Agents to increase their security;
- Sharing laboratory biosecurity information, and threat-related information and guidance with State and local officials;
- Reviewing criminal statutes to ensure their application will result in the prosecutions we need;
- A policy review to allow first responders and others to get immunized for different threat agents as a preventive measure, before attacks occur;
- International engagement to enhance biodefense and biosecurity;
- A study on Forensic Science in Homeland Security by the National Academy of Science; and
- A National Medical Countermeasure Dispensing Strategy.

Finally, in H.R. 5498, I am looking to fix some problematic programs, such as the National Biosurveillance Integration Center.

This is a bipartisan bill, developed through careful consideration of varying viewpoints, and the input of experts and interested parties in both the public and private sectors.

The Coca-Cola Foundation to Give Grants Supporting Healthy Living

I want to share with you an exciting opportunity for your organization to receive grant funding. The Coca-Cola Foundation recently announced grant funds for organizations that promote active and healthy living initiatives focused on family-oriented physical activity and nutrition education programs in New York, Texas and California. Awards will range from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for each organization, totaling \$100,000 per state and \$300,000 overall. The Foundation is accepting grant proposals from now through July 15, 2010. Grant recipients will be announced by September 30, 2010.

Interested? More information, application guidelines, and specific requirements are available at: www.cocacolacommunityrequest.com.

Legislative Spotlight

On Monday, June 14, 2010, I joined Representative Steve Kagen (D-WI) as an original cosponsor of H.R. 5520, “The Oil Spill Responsibility Act of 2010,” which directs British Petroleum (BP) to set aside \$25 billion to pay for costs related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

As demonstrated by BP President, Lamar McKay’s testimony before Congress, the responsibility in what has become the most appalling environmental debacle since the Exxon Valdez disaster rests on the shoulders of British Petroleum. Therefore the financial burden is their responsibility. In what is already a difficult financial time for those whose livelihoods have been jeopardized by this tragedy, the reparation funds provided by BP will help to mitigate the harm done to the economy and the environment in the Gulf. I will continue to fight for justice for the victims of this unfortunate situation.

From day one, the Obama Administration has been committed to containing the damage from the BP oil spill and extending to the people of the Gulf the help they need to confront what is the worst environmental disaster America has ever faced.

On Wednesday, President Obama and BP announced a deal to create a \$20 billion accountability fund to pay claims to those affected by the spill. This was in part because of Congressional pressures posed by H.R. 5520,

Following the leadership of President Obama, my Democratic colleagues and I intend to study and propose measures to ensure that a tragedy of this kind doesn’t happen again. To that end we must:

- Devise plans for a clean energy future;
- Reduce the consumption of fossil fuels; and
- Incentivize the creation of a greener, less oil dependent economy.

Congress will continue to fight to clean up this spill, protect our environment and wildlife, and ensure that victims and affected small businesses are adequately compensated.